

1/4/20 Parks and Rec meeting Minutes

1. Meeting was called to Order 6:02 PM
2. December minutes approved
3. Brunswick Skate Park discussion
 - a. Guest John Leizear: ex pro skater spoke regarding skate park repairs and improvements
4. Key Issues:
 - a. A few immediate repairs are necessary or obstacles should be blocked until fixed
 - b. John L. would like to reinvigorate the Skate Park Committee to work on programming; researching liability issues, volunteers to keep up with cleaning and maintenance, etc. so the city isn't solely responsible
 - c. Right now we have a Pre Built park, built by Brunswick DPW, not professionals, which become money pits to cities due to liability issues, constant repairs, and maintenance which cause them to become abandoned
5. Pre-cast parks cost less because you don't need to dig into the ground, saves money on site work and permits and there are options for pre-cast pump tracks as well
 - a. Leesburg has a new pre-cast park that has been packed. It costs \$220 - \$230K for 7,000 square feet. Our site is about 10,000 - 12,000 square feet. John L. estimates that with a proper design we could also fit a pup track into our current space.
 - b. John L. is going to send a follow up with email with his recommendations and pictures
 - c. Carlo recommended the committee and John L. meet up at the park in February to take a look
 - d. A question was raised regarding how we would get funding for the skate park updates - Carlo and John D. explained it could be a combination of grassroots funding, grants, and city, county, or state funds
6. Carlo and Vaughn stressed that the building would need to come from professionals that we can look into via John L.'s connections and Vaughn has also been in contact with some companies
7. River's Edge trails Update
 - a. Recently had to close some of the trails at the trailhead due to an uptick in new riders who didn't know the rules and are riding trails when wet, which causes damage to the trails; some already need repaired
8. If issues keep happening with the other trails then they may need to all be closed for winter
 - a. Carlo is meeting with City's grant writer this week to look at the trails and discuss potential grants
 - b. Carlo and John presented the Economic Impact Survey Results
9. Data Highlights:
 - a. 522 responses were received with the survey link being posted on many running and mountain biking social media sites
 - b. Majority of users travelled 30+ miles to use the trails and 89% are Mountain Bikers
 - c. It was almost evenly split between individual users and families

- d. 86% stated they visited businesses and/or restaurants and 17% spent \$45 or more while in town
 - e. Discussion occurred regarding the data being only 519 responses with many users being from out of town and heavily mountain bikers. John D. clarified the purpose of the survey was to show that people who are using the trails are spending money in Brunswick. There was some concern raised over closing the trails and the economic impact.
 - f. John D. suggested the City should work on education and outreach regarding trail usage
 - g. Carlo explained the trail system cost around \$80K to create so we need to look at the cost/benefit ratio of maintenance on the trails due to the misuse
 - h. John D. suggested looking into a Trail counter; costs can range from \$1,000 to \$10,000 for decent counters and an example shown can differentiate between pedestrian and bike traffic
10. City Park multi-use trail / CSX connector trail proposal discussion.
- a. No updates at this time, Carlo will be following up with an email
 - b. Committee requested the report from Bruce that details plans for the park systems, needed updates, etc.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:01 PM